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# FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

## CHINA.

*Report from Hongkong.*

HONGKONG, CHINA, *October 31, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of inspection service at this station for the week ended October 27, 1900: Seven hundred and two baths were given during the week and 658 pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam. Only 1 death from plague was reported during the past week which occurred among the harbor population. No other quarantinable disease exists at present in the colony.

Respectfully, JOHN W. KERR,
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

## COLOMBIA.

*Report from Bocas del Toro—Fruit port.*

BOCAS DEL TORO, COLOMBIA, *November 20, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith report of transactions at this station from September 16, 1900, to and including November 19, 1900.

The number of vessels inspected clearing for ports in the United States during this period of time is as follows: Cleared for New York via Port Limon, Costa Rica, 1; cleared for Baltimore, Md., 5; cleared for New Orleans, La., 4; cleared for Mobile, Ala., 21; total, 31. Number of passengers inspected, bound to New Orleans, La., 1; Mobile, Ala., 5; total, 6. Number of pieces of baggage disinfected, 11.

There have been 10 cases of yellow fever in the town of Bocas del Toro from July 15, 1900, to November 19, 1900, of which 3 died, 5 recovered, and 2 yet remain under treatment.

All the premises lately infected with yellow fever, except 4, have been disinfected, 3 of which I am assured will be disinfected in a few days, the present occupants of 1 dwelling positively objecting to any preventive or hygienic measures. It is extremely difficult to secure any reliable or official information relative to the existence of prevailing diseases, or the cause of death in this community.

Certificates as to the cause of death are not required by the authorities, and there is no official record open to inspection. I would respectfully suggest that during the quarantine season the laboring fruit crews be required to wear uniform clothing of washable material, so as to detect and prevent any indiscriminate communication between ship and shore, and for the more thorough and satisfactory disinfection. During this quarantine season these laborers have worn any and all

kinds of clothing, which has been through the disinfecting chamber. This wearing apparel lacking uniformity, it is impossible to prevent these laborers from wearing any clothing that may not have been disinfected.

I have also to state that the formaldehyd generator, United States Marine-Hospital property, in use here is in fairly good working order, but will require an entirely new jacket.

I have one other suggestion as a preventive measure against the carrying of infection to fruit vessels, namely, the necessity of placing a guard upon the ship while in the fruit ports, who should be under the sole supervision and control of the medical officer.

There can be but little doubt that there is surreptitious communication between ship and shore that can not otherwise be prevented.

Respectfully, WM. H. CARSON,
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

BOCAS DEL TORO, COLOMBIA, *November 20, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to herewith report that for the five days ended November 19, 1900, the following-named vessels were inspected, clearing for ports in the United States.

Triplicate copies of the United States Marine-Hospital certificates that are attached to the United States bills of health, and 5 passenger certificates are herewith inclosed.

November 16, steamship *John Wilson*, Norwegian; Olsen, master; crew, 17; 1 passenger; cargo, fruit; for New Orleans, La. November 19, steamship *Tyr*, Danish; Funder, master; crew, 17; no passengers; cargo, fruit; for Mobile, Ala. November 19, steamship *George Dumois*, Norwegian; Jentoft, master; crew, 18; 4 passengers; for Mobile, Ala.

I have to report 1 more case, the tenth, of yellow fever, which developed in the town of Bocas del Toro, November 17, 1900. The patient is a white male and a native of Belize, British Honduras. There is nothing wanting in this case, and I confirm the diagnosis of Dr. Osterhaut, the attending physician.

I have no information as to any deaths occurring during the past five days, either in Bocas del Toro or on the adjacent cays.

Respectfully, WM. H. CARSON,
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

## COSTA RICA.

### *Reports from Port Limon—Fruit port.*

PORT LIMON, COSTA RICA, *November 18, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit report for week ended November 17, 1900. The following vessels have cleared from this port:

| Date. | Vessel. | Master. | No. of Crew. | Destination. | Number of passengers. | Number of pieces baggage disinfected. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nov. 11 | Steamship Olympia | Seiders | 38 | Mobile, Ala | 0 | 0 |
| Nov. 12 | Steamship Alleghany | Lowe | 40 | New York | | |
| Nov. 14 | Steamship Beverly | Irael | 38 | New Orleans, La. | 6 | |
| Nov. 15 | Steamship Adler | Waite | 25 | New York | 0 | 0 |